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Newsletter

Number 04

3 March 2012



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Phone / Fax (09) 433 5823 **Email** – admin@matarau.school.nz

Thanks

- .. To those who supported our zone swimming team this week.
- .. To those who attended parent / teacher conferences this week and who got wholeheartedly behind the goal setting process.
- .. Those who dropped by to support our duathlon participants.

People of the week

- .. Ayla who knows more words than you would believe. Well done Ayla.
- .. Those who swam their hearts out at the Zone Swimming Sports this week - and our team for your overall behaviour and sportsmanship.
- .. Those taking part in the Beach to Basin on Sunday.

Please keep us informed of the achievements of present and past pupils so that we can celebrate these together.

Term Events

- .. coming events in brief.
- 5 March Team duathlon (at school)
- 13 March Keeping Ourselves Safe programme under way (2 weeks)
- 13 March Interschool Swimming Competitions (W.I.S.) pp 20.3
- 15 March School Swimming Sports
- 21 March Year 7/8 team triathlon (Marsden Cove)
- 22 March Year 7/8 HPV and tetanus vaccinations
- 25 March Year 7/8 individual triathlon (Onerahi Foreshore)
- 5 April Final day term 1

Vaccination Education Session

Our public health nurse will speak to interested children and parents at the following times Wednesday 7 March (in the school library) ..

- .. 2:15 - year 7 boys and girls
- .. 2:35 - year 8 girls

If you are unable to make these meetings our public health nurse is happy to answer questions and can be contacted on 0212445407.

Junior Swimming Sports - 6 March

You are invited to our special junior swimming sports for year 1-3 starting 1:30pm on Tuesday 6th March. Please note this is a different day to the middle and senior swimming sports day. This is being held separately to give juniors more time in the pool.

The afternoon will have two components- swimming races followed by a mini duathlon of run/swim.

- Year 3 - length swimmers races Year 3 - width swimmers races
- Year 2 - length swimmers races Year 2 - width swimmers races
- Year 1- width swimmers races

Duathlon for those who want to do it - Run / swim

Year 3 Year 2 Year 1

We are looking forward to having lots of fun and to celebrating how much the children have improved in swimming this year. See you there!

Junior School Visit to Kindergarten

A reminder that Rooms 2 and 3 visit the kindergarten 9:15 - Thursday 8 March. Please send / bring a plate for a shared lunch. Any questions in the run up to this event to Mrs Robertson please.

Indicator Reports

As these indicate areas of strength and weakness for your child we encourage you to use these as a point of reference throughout the year.

Middle & Senior Team Duathlon

.. 12:35 Monday 5 March. Please encourage your child(ren)s participation and come along and support on the day. Questions to Mr D. please.

Interschool Swimming Sports

.. is scheduled for 13 March at Whangarei Intermediate School (pp 20.3). Parents of those selected from the zone day will receive confirmation next week.

School Swimming Sports - 15.3

Our School Swimming Sports takes place Thursday 15 March and so you might like to pencil this in to your diaries. Events run most of the day culminating in relays and acknowledgements at the end of the day. You, and extended family, are invited to share this day with us - more details to follow.

This year's School Swimming Sports will be sponsored by Omak Meats

Headlice

It is now up to parents to check their children's hair weekly and to respond promptly in the event of infestation. If all parents do this we usually stay largely on top of this problem. Thanks.

International Schools English and Maths Competitions

Consent forms for the above competitions will be sent out shortly. Please give careful thought regarding your child's participation this year. The competition is open to all comers but there is little point in participating if children are unlikely to complete a MINIMUM of 5 practice tests in the period building up to the test. Last year a significant number of children did few or no practice tests in spite of being issued with these at school and results reflected this. So .. keen to see as many children as possible onboard for these but only if there is a commitment to do the practice tests.

Bus Children - High Visibility Vests

We have noticed that the number of bus children wearing their high visibility vests this year has dropped markedly on last year. These vests are a significant step we can all take to raise the level of safety of those children while walking to and from (or waiting at) bus stops. Please ensure your child has their vest on before they head off in the morning, and we will try our best to ensure they put it on at the end of the day. At a recent assembly children were reminded of the importance of walking away from the roadside, wearing their vest, not playing at the roadside etc - please reinforce this at home and let us know of any great road safety behaviour.

Keeping Ourselves Safe

.. starts in classes week beginning 12 March. Please show an interest in what your child is doing and make what they have done a point of discussion in the evening. The programme will particularly focus on what constitutes safe and unsafe behaviour and where to go / what to do when you need help. Children will be taught correct terms for body parts and will be taught to distinguish between good and bad touching. The programme will be facilitated by Jasmine Blundle the Police Education Officer. Jasmine is happy to have parents sit in - just see your child's teacher for times.

School Contributions / Trips and Events Fee / Spelling Books

If you have not yet paid please forward payment for the above to school at your earliest convenience or contact Kevin to discuss alternative payment arrangements.

Sausage Sizzle

Up and running on a Wednesday. Cost \$1.50 per sausage. Money to senior school fund-raising.

PMP

We would really appreciate further offers to assist with this important programme. If able to help please give Mrs Robertson a call. PMP takes place every Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon - even if you can help on one of these afternoons it enables us to give existing parent helpers the occasional break.

Pool Keys

Those 2011 key holders who received an invoice for key hire for 2012 are asked to pay no later than next week please or to return their key. Many thanks.

Medications - EXPIRY DATES

Where we currently hold medication for your child please call by the office within the next week to check expiry dates and arrange replacement where necessary. If unsure give the office a call.

After School Care

All users of this programme are asked to register please. This can be done on line by visiting www.skids.co.nz or alternatively by checking in with the programme manager here at school before the start of ASC. The standard of this programme has been significantly upgraded and large subsidies are available to most users. We hope parents will make full use of this programme to help ensure it is sustainable. Brochures are available from the office.

Guitar Lessons

There are a number of vacancies in this popular after school programme (Wednesday & Thursday in the Old School Room - by the upper car park). Cost \$20 per lesson. Vangie has a spare guitar for kids trying out. If interested please phone Vangie on 434 7573 or 021 1883251, or email killalea@ihug.co.nz

Friday Lunches

Order forms are available from the office. Weekly orders must be in no later than Wednesday of the week in question. Please give Helen a call if you can spend 10 minutes in the morning and/or 15 minutes around mid-day to help with heating and distribution of items. Thank you.

Monday Lunches

If able to help with Monday lunches (around 45 minutes) from 12:00 on Mondays please give Helen a call. Any assistance would be very much appreciated.

Matarau School Hockey Team Rally Day

Anyone wanting their children to play hockey for Matarau School this year, please come to a Rally Day on Thursday 8th March after school, 3.15pm at the Tennis Courts. Please bring sticks and suitable footwear. Any queries phone Kristine 4335885.

Swan Plants - Available at the School Office. Gold coin donation. All proceeds to the School.

Homework

Now up and running in most rooms - please be vigilant at home enforcing a suitable homework time and place. Please let your child's teacher know if you would like them excused from homework at any stage.

School Charter

Summaries available on the website (board tab) and from the office.

Final thought

Your feedback is important to us. At the end of next week our 2012 online surveys will be open for you to add your thoughts. As advised earlier, this year's surveys are in the area of learning and curriculum design. More to follow.

A final thanks for your input to this weeks teacher / student / parent conferences. Staff reported that parents were positive about goal setting, appreciative of their efforts and enthusiastic about the year ahead. Your positive input was greatly appreciated.

And in answer to parent questions ..

.. yes, we will run after school literacy labs this year for those needing / wanting these. No cost to parents.
.. withdrawal classes starting soon for those children interested in growing their knowledge of Maori language and tikanga. **More to follow on both of these programmes!**

Regards
Kevin Trehwella
PRINCIPAL

Our Sponsors support your
children, please support them



A Message from our SKIDS Team

Our SKIDS 'Safe Kids in Daily Supervision' would be very pleased to answer any questions you may have in regards to the SKIDS after school program, which is up and running each day. We can now offer fun filled after school supervision until 6pm and remember you could qualify for a subsidy too!

Also, please let it be known to them if you would appreciate an Easter Holiday Program being available for your child. If there are enough numbers this could be something to look forward to. To contact Abby or Hannah text or call 0278461724 or pop into the school hall at the end of the school day. Alternatively you will find information and enrolment forms online at www.skids.co.nz

Community Notices

Understanding Epilepsy Seminars – What is Epilepsy, What causes Epilepsy? Triggers, Medication, First Aid, etc, for more info contact 4385498 or 0800202122 or email northland@epilepsy.org.nz.

Girls Brigade – Available to all girls 5-17 yrs old, Programme enables girls to have fun, develop friendships, learn and extend skills, meet challengers and have new opportunities. For more info contact Sheryn Comrie, 4335756.

Dance Inc Northland – Limited spaces available in Ballet, Jazz, Contemporary & Musical Theatre. Ph 4308806 or visit www.danceincnorthland.co.nz or email danceincnorthland@gmail.com.

Kamo Soccer – Taking registrations for children 5 and up. Midweek practices at Kauri School available with teams affiliated with Kamo Soccer. For more info ph Annette Hayes on 4355106 or 0212654835

Kamo JMB Rugby – Registration day for all grades JBN to JB9, Wednesday 7th March, 5.00-7.00pm, Kamo Rugby Clubrooms, Butler Pl, Kamo.

Looking for something fun to do on alternant Friday nights? If you're between the ages of 9 and 12 then come and enjoy the fun and games at Clark Road Chapel on Friday the 9th of March at 7pm. For more information ring Allison & Gary on 4353788 or Roland & Ruth on 4346088